

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for licensing external processes on a server comprising the steps of:

generating an electronic license that includes a plurality of software command directives embedded therein for at least one of accepting and rejecting registration, by one or more external processes or products having the software commands, and wherein each command directive includes a command name associated with one of the plurality of software commands and an inclusion or exclusion identifier for the acceptance or rejection of the registration; and

registering software commands based upon the software command directives; and
executing the registered commands.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of includes directing the one or more external processes to only use a set of licensed hardware resources, the set of licensed hardware resources being defined by one or more fields in the electronic license.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade defining a set of additional commands for registration that are not part of software commands registered in conjunction with one or more prior licenses.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware resources licensed for use by the one or more external processes that are not part of hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of generating includes generating a license upgrade, the license upgrade describing additional hardware resources licensed for use by the one or more external processes that add further capabilities to hardware resources licensed for use by prior licenses.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising either one of (a) installing the electronic license in the server prior to shipment of the server to an end-user of the server and (b) providing the electronic license to the end-user on a removable media for installation in the server after the shipment of the server to the end-user.

21. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising installing the electronic license in the server in a over-the-wire process including (a) digitally signing the electronic license by a vendor, (b) transmitting the digitally signed electronic license over a communications network from the vendor to the server, (c) validating the digitally signed electronic license by the server and (d) installing the validated electronic license in the server.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium including program instructions executing on a computer for licensing external processes on a server, the program instructions performing the steps of:

generating an electronic license that identifies two or more software commands for registration for a product, wherein the electronic license includes for each software command a string identifying a command name for one of the software commands and at least one of an inclusion and exclusion identifier, wherein the string is embedded within the electronic license;

registering, with an interface, the identified software commands, which have the inclusion identifier in the electronic license; and

executing, with a command processor, the identified and registered software commands.